

PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 252**HOUSE BILL NO. 1169**

**By Representatives Windle, Odom, John DeBerry, Maggart, Ford, Lollar,
McManus, Harrison, Todd, Armstrong, Crider, Mike Turner**

Substituted for: Senate Bill No. 1236

By Senators Kilby, Marrero

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 68, Chapter 57, Part 1, solely for the purpose of defining the scope of practice of surgical technologists.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 68, Chapter 57, Part 1, is amended by adding a new section thereto, as follows:

Section 68-57-1___. For the purposes of this chapter, "surgical technologist" means one who works under supervision to facilitate the safe and effective conduct of invasive surgical procedures. This individual is usually employed by a hospital, medical office, or surgical center and supervised during the surgical procedure according to institutional policy and procedure to assist in providing a safe operating room environment that maximizes patient safety by performing certain tasks including, but not limited to:

(1) Preparation of the operating room and the sterile field for surgical procedures by preparing sterile supplies, instruments, and equipment using sterile technique;

(2) Preparation of the operating room for surgical procedures by ensuring that surgical equipment is functioning properly and safely; and

(3) Passing instruments, equipment or supplies to a surgeon, sponging or suctioning an operative site, preparing and cutting suture material, holding retractors, transferring but not administering fluids or drugs, assisting in counting sponges, needles, supplies, and instruments, and performing other similar tasks as directed during a surgical procedure.

Section 68-57-1___. Nothing in this act shall limit or prevent health care providers licensed pursuant to title 63 from performing duties in a surgical setting.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.

PASSED: May 10, 2007



JIMMY NAIFEH, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



RON RAMSEY
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

APPROVED this 24th day of May 2007



PHIL BREDESEN, GOVERNOR